



Dayton
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

May 23, 2011

To the Honorable Commissioners of the FCC,

Here in Texas, we have a diverse group of small and large towns in both urban and rural areas. The town of Dayton, of which I am the Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, is centrally located along Highway 90 between the cities of Houston and Beaumont. Dayton is a great place to live and do business for many reasons. In fact, it is the fastest growing community in southeast Texas. It's a spirited town with a rich heritage and distinct advantages for our people, businesses and industries.

However, there are areas where we can work harder and aspects that can be improved upon. One of these aspects is telecommunications access and broadband connectivity. Being able to connect and utilize the most modern high-speed service is a vital part of living and competing in today's world. The proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile USA, which is currently being considered by the FCC under docket 11-65, will do many positive things for the great State of Texas and I urge your speedy approval.

By rolling out state-of-the-art broadband capabilities, AT&T will be making a huge stride in the struggle to connect rural Americans to the *information superhighway*. Farmers, ranchers, and other members of rural Texas communities are currently at a disadvantage because of the lack of high-speed telecommunications access. This merger will essentially usher in a new era of broadband connectivity and internet innovation that will improve many aspects of Texans' daily lives.

Pushing the limits of wireless technology and expanding the scope of the latest telecom network are very important for small businesses in Texas and the economy of Dayton. By allowing this merger to proceed you would be doing a tremendous service for the residents of Dayton and the citizens of the Texas.

I have faith that you will make the right decision and approve this merger.

Thank you,

Tammy Pratkanis